The monthly meeting of the Inglewood Parks and Recreation Commission was convened on Thursday, November 2, 2006, in the City Council Chambers located on the 9th floor of Inglewood City Hall. Commissioner Henry Brown presiding called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m., followed by the flag salute.

Roll Call

Present:

Commissioner Willie Agee – At Large Commissioner Raena Banks-Neal – District III Commissioner Henry Brown – District IV

Absent:

Commissioner Cindy Giardina – District I Commissioner Norma Smith – District II

Staff:

Kevin Hawkins, Director Sandra Green-Hilliard, Administrative Secretary James Henry, Recreation Supervisor Cheryl Jackson, Administrative Assistant Mark Martinez, Tree Maintenance Supervisor Trina Tyson, Program Assistant

Public Comments

None.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion for the approval of the minutes from September 7, 2006 was made by Commissioner Agee and seconded by Commissioner Banks-Neal.

Director's Report

Kevin Hawkins stated thank you Commissioner. Good evening and good evening to our newest Commissioner Ms. Raena Banks-Neal. I'm certainly glad to be here, it's been a while since I've sat in. I've actually been wearing a couple of hats but it is always good to see the Commissioners here. Just for background sake, you'll see Commissioner, I'm sure you've spoken with your colleagues about this Department which we feel is the pulse of the community. We feel like we have our hands in everything; youth, adults and seniors.

We have 4 divisions, in terms of our Parks, Recreation and our Human Services as well as our Community Beautification Services. We have about 130 employees made up of both full time and part time employees, and an \$11.5 million dollar budget.

We are responsible as you will hear later on from the reports, for everything from the maintenance of our trees to all of our recreation and cultural activities, to our code enforcement and property maintenance and also for our human and senior services. I'm pretty bias, I've worked for a lot of Departments and I have been here (in the city) for almost 15 years and this is by far the best Department in City Hall. What we do during this portion of the meeting is we give an overview of Departmental Activities. I will generally give you an overview as I just did of our respective sections to give you a current update of what is going on. With that let's start off with Mr. Henry. He is the very tall gentleman right there. He is our supervisor over at Vincent Park and our resident Luther Vandross so he kind of does it all, a man of many talents. With that Mr. Henry.

James Henry stated good evening Commissioners and my fellow colleagues. I will start off with our recreational activities.

Youth Flag Football

Flag Football season is currently underway. Games are being played each Saturday from 9am-4pm at Darby Park. Jr. High Flag Football games are being played on Thursdays and Fridays, at 4pm at Darby Park.

We are currently working on updating our website to include detailed information about our sports program including schedules, stats, player highlights, special events and registration information. We will keep you posted.

Field Usage

The soccer fields at Vincent Park are open and as usual being utilized (7) seven days a week. Our principle users are: Inglewood Soccer, Inglewood Jr. All American Football, A.Y.S.O. youth soccer and Latinos Unidos youth soccer teams.

Halloween Haunts

On Tuesday, the Boys and Girls Club at both Rogers Park and Darby Park hosted their Annual Halloween Carnival, Haunted House and Fear Factor. Both provided safe and fun alternatives to door to door *trick or treating*. New this year, Rogers Park offered an expanded haunted house in the gymnasium with expanded hours. It was offered Monday and Tuesday and according to participants it was bigger and better than past years.

Beginner Computer Classes

The computer classes at Lockhaven have begun and the response has been excellent. Classes are conducted:

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Mon. and Wed. from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Beginners (All ages) Tu. from 10:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. - Seniors and Adults Th. from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. - After-school program participants
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Social Club

Registration for the recreation activities Social Club at Darby will start November 13, 2006. These are special interest groups that will meet one or more times a week at Darby between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Club activities will include: Beginning Beading, Book Club, Walking Club, Cards, Bingo, Chess, Checkers and Taebo.

Holiday Decorating Contest

Entry forms for the City's Annual Holiday Decorating Contest are now available. The contest is open to all Inglewood residents and block clubs. Contestants are judged on elements such as elaboration, creativity and complexity. Awards will be given to first, second, and third place winners in Individual and Group categories. All entries will receive certificates for their participation.

Entry forms can be obtained at the Inglewood City Hall Information Desk, Main Library, all recreation Centers, and the Senior Center. Forms can also be obtained by visiting the City's website. We have forms available this evening for you if you want to take some to give to residents.

The entry deadline is Thursday, December 7, 2006 by 5:00 p.m. Completed forms should be returned to the Department. Judging for the contest will be conducted on December 20 and 21. Districts 1 and 4 will be judged on December 20th and Districts 2 and 3 will be judged on December 21st. The contest winners will be recognized at the first City Council meeting of the New Year. You will be contacted by the Cultural Office and also receive a letter with the particulars as the date nears.

Center Park

Following the District 4 community meeting, staff began a dialogue with the City Attorney's Office to see about revising the Municipal Code to include Center Park as a rental facility with use by permit only. As you know, currently the facility is not included as one of the City facilities you can reserve for rental.

By changing the municipal code, this will allow for greater enforcement of the park rules and monitoring. But most importantly, residents would still have access to the open space. Nothing has been finalized as this would be done in conjunction with some other revisions we are looking at regarding the IMC. Before we move forward, we will share the information with you for concurrence before going to the Mayor and Council Members.

In terms of what's happening at the park right now...activity during the weekdays at Center Park has tapered off following the start of school. There is some soccer play on the weekends and weekdays after staff leaves for the evening. This will be greatly curbed by the change in time. Now that it's dark earlier, we will resume our schedule of locking the park by 6:00 p.m.

We will provide an update at the next meeting.

Holiday Tree Lighting

On Thursday, December 7, 2006, Inglewood residents, their families and friends are encouraged to join Inglewood's Mayor and Council Members for the City's Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony. The event will take place at Inglewood City Hall – South Mall at 5:30 p.m. The event will include entertainment, arts and crafts, refreshments for all, and a special holiday visit by Santa.

IPAL MOU

On January 24, 2006, the Mayor and Council Members approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Inglewood Police Activities League (IPAL) for use of space at Edward Vincent Park and operation of IPAL programs and activities at our parks and recreation centers.

As part of the MOU, we committed to providing office space at the Veterans Memorial Building - "Teddy Roosevelt" room (downstairs) - for use as a headquarters/center for IPAL administrative and program operations. It was anticipated that occupancy of the building and programming would begin no later than March 1, 2006.

As you know, about the same time, discussion about relocating Senior Center programs and activities were also underway. We advised PAL reps that we would have to delay their occupying the space until the City's program was in place and somewhat settled.

Since March 1, we have worked with PAL to conduct some joint programs such as field trips and our annual boxing show. On November 1, access to the Teddy Roosevelt Room was given to PAL. Overall, the full intent of the MOU has not been achieved and we are still interested in working with this organization. We'd like to extend the MOU for 1 year.

The current MOU expires on December 31, 2006 so we would like to take this matter to Council prior to the end of December.

We are asking your concurrence to again enter into an MOU with IPAL, under the same conditions as the original.

James Henry stated thank you. Any questions?

Commissioner Agee stated as always, very, very good report. One question concerning the electricity at the Veteran's Building, has it been upgraded?

Kevin Hawkins stated as Mr. Henry pointed out that the IPAL program is currently located at the Vet's Building. But part of that process is the Senior Center temporary relocation. The IPAL program is currently at the bottom of the facility. The good news is that we currently have police presence there and now we have our seniors there. With the police there we are focusing on our program with our at risk youth.

Now to get back to what Commissioner Agee asked in terms of electricity, that's an item and there is actually a list of items that are required in order to bring the Vet's Building to where we need to be where we feel we need. We've been going to a host of meetings, the Mayor's been there, and Councilwoman Dunlap has been there, I've been there numerous times. We have a work group that has been there, most recently yesterday. That item has been identified and we, in terms of the City, will be bringing something to the City Council-- we anticipate on November 14th. That will address those things. It is a work in progress and it's definitely not perfect where it would not only be for the seniors, but for our staff members who are there too who basically do not have full ability to provide the services that they want to. So that is one of the items we have identified and that has been presented and is currently being discussed. As soon as it's addressed we will let you know or I'm sure the seniors will let you know. I'm laughing to keep from crying, we are not happy about what's going on so we are taking steps and that is where we are at right now.

Commissioner Agee stated thank you.

Commissioner Brown stated I just want to comment on two areas. The Holiday Decoration. Last year I indicated that I hoped that we would explore some type of monetary type of gift or something from Home Depot or Costco for the residents who go out of their way to really beautify their properties. I know in the past we've given out nice little ribbons and stuff but if people know that we are doing something that they can use to off set buying lighting and all, I think that we would have a greater participation. And last is that I see you mentioned Center Park and I'm not trying to beat a dead horse, but in our September meeting we did have various surveys that were passed out to the residents and I would like to know feedback on what their responses were.

One of the problems on that particular night and you can see that in the minutes, is that the meeting was to address what staff had suggested that we might do in that area, not trying to make it against soccer or football because we are talking about an area that is very small. I would like to know what happened to those surveys and what the comments were because if those staff members that were present there was a tremendous turn out of residents that showed interest in this tiny little park that governs from Arlington all the way to Prairie. I would like to know what they thought so that we don't divide any dividing lines about, we want a part for black kids or Latin American kids, we just want a park that is conducive to our residents and I'd like to see what type of information we collected from our residents.

Kevin Hawkins stated thank you for your comments. What we will do is make sure that is at your disposal. What Mr. Henry reported out on was actually in response to the feedback and the input that was part of that community process. Just a quick clarification, Center Park as you well know, is adjacent to Worthington Elementary. Through an informal agreement between the City and IUSD, basically the City maintains the open space there and the school district has control of the open facilities. So over the years with changes in Administration and what not, the school district didn't particular care for the residents or for the community to utilize the facility and as a result a fence went up over at Center Park which further constrained the ability to take advantage of already limited open space. If you take a look at the changing demographics of the city, it's changed from just basketball and baseball players to a lot of soccer players. So what you now have is a community park now being a hub of recreational activities. You have all these competing interest for this park. There were a lot of things that were discussed, a lot of things in terms of how we can safeguard the park to make sure that families can enjoy it with out preventing folks from having the ability to participate in recreational opportunities and that is what some of the community meetings were about. In addition, we had outside groups who were coming into the city to organize some soccer play because our facilities are good facilities. So you have all these competing interests and the challenges is to balance the needs of the community and some of the other issues there and it has been a very difficult thing to attain.

What Mr. Henry reported out on was actually a strategy to address that per this body here and Commissioner Brown just talked about is making sure that we did include your input and that is to treat that open space like we are doing other open space and parks by requiring a field use agreement. So basically if you have an outside group who is trying to organize play instead of them just showing up and starting a soccer game or whom ever it is, (such as baseball), whatever it will require them to fill out paperwork and we'll have better control and will be able to monitor and make sure the interest of the community is taken care of without excluding any one group.

Every thing that we are talking about is in direct response to that community process; we don't have the final product because it calls for some ordinance changes which we are dependant upon Legal right now. So once we have that we will come back to you with that.

Commissioner Brown stated remember we mentioned about providing monitors at Darby so that the staff there can over see activities, has that been put into play?

Kevin Hawkins stated currently, and you know this very well, Center Park is under the auspices of Darby Park, but the problem is that we only staff for certain hours and so we are talking about resources. There are a lot of items floating around now for staff and security or what not, but we can't be there 24 hours a day. We wish we could and then you have to balance that with people who want to play. Again while trying to do a balancing act, this is the best solution that we have currently and that is to put in a mechanism that we can control to a certain extent without always being there but we know what the concerns are and are addressing them giving current resources.

Commissioner Agee stated I agree with your program, but there are some things that are going on that I'm pretty sure staff is not aware of. In some cases in order for black kids to play soccer they have to change their names to a Hispanic name, now this is outrageous. As far as Center Park, I don't think we should have held a meeting there because as far as I see it they are out of control. You walked right into a wall with that. You knew exactly what was going to happen when you go out there and invite all the soccer players and everyone else who wants to complain about the park. They want to control the park. It's an Inglewood park, it should be controlled by Inglewood staff in my opinion and it's not. Every park in this city should be controlled by staff that is why I agree with your programs. If you need a motion, I'll give you a motion to vote and take it to Council and get it passed.

Kevin Hawkins stated one thing is I appreciate that. We will come back to this body for support. Two things, we do need concurrence on the IPAL program to make sure that continues and basically to recap, you wanted to see an IPAL program at the park, it's been delayed. Now it's there but now because it had been delayed, the original agreement is starting to expire. We now have it implemented and we would like to extend the terms, but before we go back to Council we want to make sure that this is something you still want because we definitely want it and the Police definitely want it.

Commissioner Agee stated at the proper time, I'll make a motion for it.

Kevin Hawkins stated the motion should come after this comment. Just really quick, this issue and I don't know what is going on because you said we probably weren't aware, but it's a fact and I'll grant that.

But the thing that I want to point out is that this city's demographics have changed but the good thing about it is that we are a very diverse department. We take pride in that. We put on all the cultural events for the city, from MLK to Cesar Chavez. Again we represent the bulk of this community and we try to meet their needs. I look over here and I'm glad that Councilman Morales has appointed our new Commissioner and that shows you that it doesn't matter where you are coming from; we all want a better quality of life for our residents. I'm encouraged by that and again, we will address it but we will address it as it being something that is good for the city not just one group. With that can we get concurrence in motion from this body to continue the IPAL program for an additional year and refer it to the Council?

Commissioner Agee stated I make a motion that we recommend that staff go to Council and proceed with this MOU.

Commissioner Banks-Neal stated if I could before I second this, the IPAL program is to get the same parks and field use?

Kevin Hawkins stated no, I'm sorry. We switched off. Let me say this Center Park is something that we are working on and we will come back to you.

Commissioner Banks-Neal stated I'm just trying to clarify what the motion is for.

Kevin Hawkins stated the motion is for IPAL (Inglewood Police Athletic League). The program is where Police Officers are basically volunteering their time to do outreach into the community. We have identified out there through studies that when kids are idol, they are more prone to get into non productive activities... we want to keep our youth busy and so you have an opportunity for police officers to network and reach out to our youth through recreational activities which is a perfect link. If you are to provide activities and field trips so they are there, it serves to demystify the police officers and it ties them back into the community and it also fits us perfectly with programs and activities for our youth. It has been a perfect marriage, as a matter of fact, when the city had stopped it for a while for 4 or 5 years, there was a spike in terms of youth crime. They (IPD) were very anxious to see this come back and we are anxious to have it back at our largest park which happens to be one of Mr. Henry's park. That is kind of where we are at right now. So we are asking and again this body said we really want to see it and we proceeded with that. So again because of the delays, because Vincent Park is also the site of out temporary senior center, the IPAL program was only implemented on a one year agreement. It is now implemented, but we are coming to the end of that term so we would like to continue it, but we are coming back to you before we go to Council.

Commissioner Banks-Neal stated ok, I second.

Commissioner Brown stated it has been properly moved and second that the IPAL program will continue.

Kevin Hawkins stated Mr. Martinez is going to go next. Mark Martinez is our tree maintenance supervisor. He is over all of our tree crew. You see the holiday trimming going on right now. We have about what Mark 25,000 trees?

Mark Martinez stated about 25,000.

Kevin Hawkins stated about 25,000 throughout the city. So when you look at the medians out there, the trees and the park. We don't have enough guys, but they still keep it looking good and that's the man responsible for it. With that, Mark Martinez.

Mark Martinez stated good evening.

Circle Park

The Circle Park Water Feature Project has been brought to the attention of the Public Works Director during a Capital Improvement Project meeting. He is aware of the scope of work that is required of the project. He plans to assign this project once he fills the Assistant Engineer position. According to Goran Milunovic from Public Works, the preliminary cost estimate is approximately \$300,000 plus.

South Bay Parks Superintendent Meeting

On November 1, a group of Parks Superintendents from outlying cities, such as Torrance, Rolling Hills Estates, El Segundo, Redondo Beach and Rancho Palos Verdes met to discuss the following items: tree maintenance, landscaping, disaster preparedness, bid piggybacking, mutual aid agreement, special events, park maintenance, heavy duty equipment and park personnel. The group agreed to meet on a quarterly basis.

Parks Construction

Parks Construction is planning to rectify the standing water problem at Center Park's drinking fountain. During the construction of the restrooms, a main drain for the drinking fountain was not included in the plans. A French Drain was constructed at the time. A French Drain is not very large and takes a while before it dries up. The crew will expand the French Drain by modifying the drain that is currently used for the irrigation system.

Park Maintenance

Park Maintenance Supervisors met with a representative from Tot Turf Company to discuss the replacement of all rubber matting at various parks throughout the City. The representative will submit a cost estimate by November 3rd.

Park Supervisor also maintains that all general park maintenance such as general mowing and clean up is being maintained. They also claim they are overwhelmed with graffiti in the restrooms and deal with that on a day to day basis. They still only have 1 mower to cover both north and south sides of the city. They have been busy this past month with different functions that require set up of tables, chairs and stages. The IBA Planting will take place on November 18th.

Tree Maintenance

The Tree Maintenance crew is in full swing with Holiday Trimming, which consists of all the main streets in the Downtown business area, all of the center medians and the big ficus trees. Although we are being hampered with equipment problems, with only 3 towers in service. One tower has been down since the beginning of the year and the other has been down for about a month and a half now. It has gone in for repairs. But it seems like the big problem is the short form agreements. It seems like when it comes to short form agreements for any major repairs to get done, that has been the hold up. It has been a legal battle going back and forth with the approval for the short forms.

We have one employee who has been on light duty for the past five weeks and another employee who is on light duty indefinitely. We are still handling special requests from management. I think the biggest thing right now at this point is just the repair time for down equipment, it's just taking too long. Any questions?

Commissioner Agee stated can you repeat the cost of the work that is going to be done at Center Park?

Mark Martinez asked at Center Park?

Kevin Hawkins stated at Circle Park.

Mark Martinez stated we are spending \$300,000, which was just a ball park figure by Goran from Public Works.

Commissioner Agee asked will the price go up?

Kevin Hawkins stated maybe.

Mark Martinez stated the longer it takes to finalize it the cost is going to continue to go up and that is usual what happens. The Public Works Director is aware of the problem and as soon as he fills the Engineer position, they will get to it.

Commissioner Agee asked has the work begun?

Mark Martinez stated no, it hasn't begun yet. The Public Works Director is aware of the project and is going to fill the engineer position first and the \$300,000 is a ball park estimate.

Commissioner Agee stated I'm not really sure of the work that is going to be done there. \$300,000 is a little bit expensive to me.

Kevin Hawkins stated once the Public Works Director fills that position and once he comes back to us with the project manager, they will be able to speak on it better because right now there is no project manager to speak on it.

Commissioner Brown stated I'm glad you did bring up Circle Park because for my colleague this has been a project that's been on the table even before we took on our seats and at one of our Council meetings we were thrown under the bus because we talked about money moving from the project at Circle Park to complete the mural project and I think it would enhance all of our knowledge if we can share what the project is really about and it would enhance District I. It's not just something that we pulled out of the sky and said we need money for. And along those lines I'm also concerned about dollars that we have approved like for the bathroom at Ed Vincent Park, nothing seems to be happening and as time goes by, cost will escalate and so a project starts at \$300,000 but in a year it'll cost us \$1.5 million, it's kind of difficult that's all.

Kevin Hawkins stated the one thing that I can speak to is that the new Public Works Director, who has come aboard, is very responsive. As you know, the previous PW Director actually wore two hats, so despite the accomplishments, there are a lot of things that need to be done. So the new PW Director knows that there is a shopping list of things that need to get done and we are on that list. We've had some planning meetings with him to let him know exactly where we are with some of these projects and our expectations. So he has his hands full, he needs to fill his budgeted spot(s) and once he gets to a point where he has the staffing, then we will feel confident that we will start seeing some things get done. Right now it is a matter of resource allocation and we have various projects that are currently underway and there is work that is going on the bathrooms and other items, it may not be visible but there are some things that are going on.

Commissioner Agee stated I'd like to comment on Circle Park. We held a community meeting over at the ICOPP Center on Manchester. I walked quite a few of the houses by Circle Park and quite a few seniors don't want it. They want it to stay as it is. I don't know why it changed.

If the senior citizens don't want it, I don't think it should change. But the Council has approved it and the Commission so I'm not trying to stop it, that is just my opinion and I want to make that clear.

Commissioner Brown stated thank you.

Kevin Hawkins stated our Department mission is Creating Community through People, Parks and Programs. We try to communicate, coordinate and cooperate with the public. Basically what we try to do is improve the quality of life here in the city and it's been over a year now that we've gotten Code Enforcement back. Now that Code Enforcement is a part of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, we feel like a missing part of our family has come back home. Code Enforcement includes property maintenance as well as graffiti abatement in terms of improving the quality of life. We shoot to average about 25,000 to 30,000 inspections a year, that's the main thing that safeguards your property values which are always escalating here in Inglewood. We take a lot of pride in that. So with that we have we have from what we call our Community Beautification Services section, Cheryl Jackson who is our Administrative Assistant here to do a brief report.

Cheryl Jackson stated good evening everyone. I am Cheryl Jackson and I'm here on behalf of Ms. Alma Bryant who is our Code Enforcement Manager.

- Briefly, Code Enforcement has conducted a total of approximately 1,389 property maintenance inspections (both residential and commercial), 576 special enforcement actions (which includes vendor detail/warnings given) and have issued 30 parking citations and 3 vendor citations.
- Our graffiti crew has removed graffiti from approximately 1,418 locations and removed 10 signs. Our graffiti crew also participated in the District 4 Clean Up Day.
- On October 7, 2006, four (4) Code Enforcement Officers participated in the Market Street Art Festival. They patrolled for illegal vendors.
- On October 2, 2006, Code Enforcement Manager attended the "Drugs, Violence and Music" and "Street Level Interdiction" police training.
- On October 19, 2006 the Code Enforcement Manager attended the 8th Avenue block club meeting.
- Both Code Enforcement and Graffiti will continue to be an active part of Community Events.

Cheryl Jackson asked any questions or comments?

Commissioner Banks-Neal stated just one. The graffiti abatement program is a great program. I live across the street from Hillcrest Alternative High School the same day the graffiti is called in; it is gone with in an hour or two so I wanted to congratulate you on that.

Cheryl Jackson stated at times we get calls in the morning, we clean the graffiti and by the end of the day its back, so sometimes we aren't able to make it back by the end of the day but I do thank you for that.

Commissioner Agee stated at Home Depot, they have been having lots of problems within the parking lot. The police go over there as well as code enforcement and they take everyone out of there, but by the time the police and code enforcement leaves they go right back in there. Do you give citations for that?

Cheryl Jackson stated if a vendor is detained, they can be given a citation if they have identification. If they don't have identification we can not issue a citation on the spot. What we do is confiscate the items and in order for them to retrieve their items they have to come into the department and they must bring in identification then we will issue them a citation.

Commissioner Agee asked how many of them retrieve their items?

Cheryl Jackson stated it may be one every so many months that may come back and get their items, normally they don't. They can even bring a father or a sister, but someone has to come in and receive the citation. But generally if it is perishable items, we dispose of them because they won't come back to retrieve that. If we confiscate food items and they don't have identification, it's just confiscated and disposed at the city yard. We do periodically regulatory task forces with IPD which will start up again. We will have Police escort and if they don't have identification then they will be arrested.

Commissioner Agee stated well that's what we are going to have to have.

Cheryl Jackson stated it is just a matter of having the availability of the police officers to assist.

Commissioner Agee stated if you go to the Home Depot on Rosecrans, you won't see that. But when you come to Inglewood, it's flooded. As a matter of fact, the other day they sent something to the City Council about that because it's really bad and if they don't take control of it it's going to get out of hand and they won't be able to do anything about it. I just don't understand and something needs to be done.

Kevin Hawkins stated Commissioner, are you talking about illegal vendors or day laborers?

Commissioner Agee stated illegal vendors' period.

Kevin Hawkins stated there is a difference between illegal vendors and day labors as you well know.

With illegal vendors, as she pointed out, we confiscate their goods and they may or may not come back and that is something in terms of crime prevention, that is not a priority. Police officers are trying to fight crime and violent crime. So they may show up and support us, but again we may just try to cite them, confiscate and chase them off the site. Also we try to work in concert in the various areas if they are doing illegal vending in front of a store or what not to make sure that if the store owners are calling, but then that segues into day laborers, which is a big issue all over this country. Especially with Home Depot where you have in the City of Burbank and others where they put up a day labor stop and then you have issues of will that be city funded... are you promoting illegal laborers? So you have all these issues and it's an issue that Inglewood's facing and it's definitely been prevalent at Home Depot because it's a one stop shop. People come in there pick up their hardware and a laborer. It's one of those things and I'm not trying to deflect it, I'm just trying to let you know Code maybe part of it and we try to assist, but it's more of a pervasive thing and we don't have the police resources to deal with that and in fact, most agencies don't. It's just one of those things that we just have to keep working on—smarter and more efficiently, but again we try to work with businesses, if they are out there and are visible and they truly do not want them out there they can take steps in order to eliminate that.

Commissioner Agee asked how about citing the people who come out there and pick them up?

Kevin Hawkins stated that something to consider but again if they are illegally parked, then that is something that maybe PD can talk about. But then again what you are talking about is having a police officer sit out and not patrol Darby Dixon or not patrol the 2nd District to sit out and cite someone who could be coming from the Renaissance or Ladera. So again in terms of resource allocation, that may not be a priority.

Cheryl Jackson asked can I say something to the Commissioner? What we have done, just like you said when Code Enforcement leaves, they come back. We have tried to flex our hours a little bit. Come in a little later stay a little later. Because you know they know Code Enforcement will be off the streets by 4 or 5 pm. we have one inspector who works part time until about 8 p.m. We try to work a little later in the evening when they are not expecting us. We've also had vendors with PD assistance who have been arrested, go to jail, book them, they get out and then they are out on the street a few hours later. A criminal is going to be a criminal and how you stop that I don't know. We'll do the best we can.

Commissioner Brown stated can we move on. We are looking at our time. I also along with my colleagues want to compliment Code Enforcement.

The merchants on Crenshaw really appreciate what you do because for some reason on 108th to 111th has been a sore thumb that people want to target and a new merchant just opened up a market with the green colors and you came out with the colors that matched the brick. You weren't just putting any paint on walls, so I have to compliment you for a job well done. Can we move on?

Kevin Hawkins stated we use to call this section Community Services but it wasn't encompassing enough so now we call it the Human Services section. Is that your title-- Human Services Program Assistant Superwoman?

Trina Tyson stated yes. Good evening. Just a few things but I'll be really brief.

Commissioner Brown stated thank you.

Commissioner Agee stated I don't think there should be a time limit on this.

Trina Tyson stated a couple of things as Kevin had mentioned, we do things with the seniors.

Thanksgiving Drive

Every year we have a thanksgiving drive, this is our fifth year. We ask the city residents, staff members, Commissioners to donate non-perishable items so that we can make baskets for our home bound seniors. We also take monetary donations and purchase foods. There will be donations boxes here at City Hall on the 1st and 5th floors as well as at Rogers Park. (Thanksgiving flyer was given to the Commissioners).

Senior Center Relocation

Just briefly on the senior center location, On September 5, 2006, the Inglewood's senior citizens moved into their new home over at the Veteran's Building. The most important activities and services are available there, although the larger group of activities has been relocated to other City parks. For example our choir rehearsal is at Rogers Park and our Yoga Classes are at Darby Park.

After School Snack Program

On September 12, 2006, the after-school snack program began with the resumption of after school programs at 14 parks and school sites. The sites are at Rogers and Darby Parks, the Veteran's Building, Payne, Oak, Hudnall, Worthington, Bennett-Kew, Centinela, Freeman and Highland Elementary Schools; Morningside High School and the Inglewood Mobile Recreation Unit, which alternates between Center Park and Lockhaven Community Center. We serve 50 to 150 snacks a day to students in our program. We've also included a nutrition component where we teach the students how to read labels.

Mural Project Update

On September 12, 2006, the Mayor and Council Members awarded a contract to Pima Construction Corporation, the low bidder for the construction of the new Grevillea Art Park and the wall for the mural. A pre-construction meeting will be held next Tuesday, November 7, 2006 at which a date to proceed with the work will be made. The contractor will have 90 working days to complete the job. Because the bid was higher than the available funding, some tasks will be done by City crews or be deferred. The funding campaign is continuing.

Trina Tyson stated we look forward to meeting with you, we have a lot of programs over at Rogers Park, and we will definitely get on your agenda so that you can see what we are all about. Any questions?

Commissioner Agee stated very good report.

Commissioner Banks-Neal asked the Grevillea Art Park meeting that is next Tuesday, is that a meeting open to the public?

Trina Tyson stated yes it is. There is a Mural Restoration Committee that meets regularly, however they are always recruiting members and it is definitely open to the public. We encourage and invite people to come out because it's not just about the mural it's also the education behind it and the history of Inglewood. What I don't know is the time and date, but we can get back to you with that information.

Commissioner Banks-Neal stated thank you.

Commissioner Brown stated very good report.

Trina Tyson stated thank you.

Commissioner Brown stated when I listen to your report and then I pick up the publications that we have in the city, it really gives a different insight in terms of how important this Department is and it's amazing about the budgetary constraints that we go through. And just as Kevin said earlier, you touch so many lives. I'm thinking about what's going on in our City now (not to make it political), but no one is talking about improving the life on the recreation level that will curb a lot of the problems. Is that your report?

Kevin Hawkins stated that is it.

Commissioner Brown stated we did talk about it one time, kind of tweaking our agenda a little bit because when I look at it and it says unfinished business, I don't think that is really something that we have touched on.

Maybe we can just makes some adjustments on how the agenda items are really structured and so that when people want to come and speak they will at least have an idea on what we are going to be talking about that evening.

Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Agee stated one thing I'd like to say, is when I waste my time coming to these meetings, I don't want to rush. I want to do what I come here to do and that is to take care of business with Parks and Recreation. That's my opinion and that is all I have to say.

Commissioner Banks-Neal stated thank you guys for having me here. I was very excited about it. I am glad that Councilman Morales appointed me here and luckily for me I have been involved on the outside. I've seen a lot of the programs that you guys are talking about. I've had my nephew in different programs at Darby, in football and baseball and all that. I've seen from the outside and it feels good to be on the inside. Thank you.

Commissioner Brown stated my only comment is that in our September meeting we didn't talk a lot about the Jazz Festival and what we really thought about it. I know a lot of accolades were given. The accolades that I would give would go towards the staff of Parks and Recreation, Police Department and also the Fire Department. But I hope that as we look at that venture next year, that we look at the promoter and ask him to really look at some things. One was that we did have a Commissioner who wasn't able to use bathroom facilities behind the activity. I found myself that on the particular day, we got one letter. If on the day of the event the promoter wasn't there, I wouldn't have been able to get in without paying. When you look at other cities that put on things of that size, theirs is free. I'm hoping that the promoter will look at the cost and not be so expensive to the vendors that he had so that he would have more vendors because if I had to rate what he did last year to this years festival, last year was much better and I think that should be passed on to him that we asked to step up to the plate. With that, I will say the meeting stand adjourn at 7:04 p.m.

UPCOMING DISCUSSION ITEMS

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PARKS

- Capital Improvement Projects
 - 1. Vincent Park Restrooms
 - 2. Circle Park Water Feature
- Tree Maintenance
- Park Construction
- Park Maintenance

RECREATION

- Tree Lighting
- Santa's Workshop
- Tennis for Tot's
- Rogers Park Toy Giveaway
- Update:
 - 1. MLK Day Celebration
 - 2. Inglewood's Centennial Celebration Planning
 - 3. Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Inglewood and Inglewood Police Activities

HUMAN SERVICES

- Update Regarding Senior Center Operations, Programs and Activities
- Recap of Holiday Giving Campaigns (Thanksgiving, Heart Wall and Holiday Celebration)

COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Vendor Task Force
- Graffiti Hotline